

HEALTH  
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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PORTISHEAD.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

DR. D.W. BRUCE.

FOR

YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1950.





THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PORTISHEAD.

The Lodge,  
Woodhill Road,  
Portishead.

August, 1951.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR  
1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Portishead.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report.

1. POPULATION CENSUS 1951.

| Census 1931. |          |       |         | Census 1951 |       |         |           |             |
|--------------|----------|-------|---------|-------------|-------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| Acreage.     | Persons. | Male. | Female. | Persons.    | Male. | Female. | Increase. | % Increase. |
| 1,119        | 3,909    | 1,897 | 2,012   | 4,454       | 2,111 | 2,343   | 545       | 13.9        |

Production of Penny Rate.

£127. 6s. 2d.

2. BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

|                      | <u>Portishead.</u> | <u>England and Wales.</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Birth Rate per 1,000 | 15.6               | 15.8                      |
| Death Rate per 1,000 | 12.06              | 11.6                      |
| Infants under 1 year | 1                  |                           |
| Still Births         | 3                  |                           |

3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

|                                          |    |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| Measles                                  | 35 |
| Scarlet Fever                            | 1  |
| Diphtheria                               | -  |
| Enteric Fever (including<br>paratyphoid) | -  |
| Puerperal Pyrexia                        | -  |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum                    | -  |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis                | -  |
| Dysentery                                | -  |
| Whooping Cough                           | 10 |
| Pneumonia                                | -  |
| Acute Poliomyelitis                      | -  |
| Encephalitis Lethargica                  | -  |
| Malaria                                  | -  |
| Small Pox                                | -  |

4. EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

An expectant mother may attend her family doctor, in which case the latter is responsible for pre-natal care and attends the birth of the child. Alternatively, the expectant mother may call in the District Nurse who may take over the entire management of the case only calling in a Doctor in case of difficulty. Young children may attend their family Doctor or the Infant Welfare Centre.

5. HOME NURSING SERVICE.

There are two District Nurses who provide a thoroughly efficient service.

6. DOMESTIC HELPS.

These are supplied by application to the District Organiser or to a Doctor.

7. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

These are performed by the family Doctor or at the Infant Welfare Centre if desired.

8. WATER SUPPLY.

I must still call attention to the hardness of the water supply which causes great expense to owners of property on descaling of their hot water supplies caused by lime crusts and the supply piping in connection therewith.

We have one point to look forward to and that is in connection with the future Industrial Development. A supply is being brought to Portishead by an 18 inch main from the source of the Bristol Waterworks Company which will reduce the hardness of the water to a degree of pleasant use.

The present supply of water from the borehole at Bristol Road will only be used as a standby.

A Chemical analysis was taken by the Council's Engineer & Surveyor and I am giving this as Appendix I to this Report for reference.

The Portishead District Water Company are about to provide a new main as an extension to the Down Road and Nore Road existing mains to give an efficient supply to the dwellings at the East end of the district and also this main extension will be taken westward, joined as a circuit, and become a supply to the Redcliffe Bay, Long Ashton Rural District, area.

9. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The existing system is one of low lying land to the East, being the High Street, Dock and Bristol Road areas, which sewage is raised to the Slade Road by means of ejectors and pumps where it becomes gravity flow, via Battery Lane, Lake Road and the Esplanade to the discharge 15 inch sewer outfall situated in Kilkenny Bay.

The general sewerage of the District is a mixed combine system and the Council engaged Messrs. Ross Hooper & Harvey of Chippenham to provide a plan, report, and recommendations for the future on requirements needed to modernise the whole of the system and approximate estimates.

This has now been done and is under consideration of the Council.

The report also gave particulars of the sewerage of Redcliffe Bay area and it is found that this area can be drained into the existing outfall at Portishead. During the year the Engineer & Surveyor has executed work of bringing stone gouts (a stone slab drain) from underneath properties in the High Street into existing sewers.

10. WATER CARRIAGE SYSTEM.

The dwellings at the North West end of the District, Nore Road and Down Road areas are not sewered and I am of opinion that this matter should be given full consideration in order to do away with the existing cesspool drainages, especially as water supply from Company's mains will become available shortly and also that the use of combined service pipes supplies can be overcome by separate supplies to each dwelling.

The Engineer & Surveyor points out that the future expense of the reconstruction of the Sewerage System of the District is a very serious financial matter and he feels that the District with its present low rateable value cannot possibly consider such expenditure and even necessary adaptations and relief sewers are also in the same category.

WATER CARRIAGE SYSTEM (CONTD).

Details of the Scheme are given below:-

- Scheme 1. Provides for an all gravity scheme to do away with pumping and costs of maintenance on same by the provision of tunnel gravity drainage and 36 inch new outfall at Battery Point. Estimated cost - £175,800.
- Scheme 2. To continue pumping by a new station at the Council Yard, Albert Road, in lieu of the two existing, and be electrically driven with building allowable for expansion as the District grows. New outfall to be provided as in scheme one at Portishead Point. The use of tank sewers would be necessary as tide flow storage. Estimated cost £94,140.

Redcliffe Bay Sewerage. It would be possible to drain this area which is in the Long Ashton Rural District to the Portishead outfall, using a tank sewer as storage for tidal flow. Estimated cost £30,000. If an outfall was provided at the Black Nore Point the estimated cost would be £22,920.

90 per cent of the District is on water carriage drainage.

11. HOUSE REFUSE.

This work is carried out very satisfactorily by direct labour by the Council. Salvage work is also done for waste paper, iron, and cloth rags. A controlled tip is used on Council land for disposal of house refuse.

12. HOUSING.

The Council realise their responsibilities for housing in the District and during the year 56 permanent houses have been erected by them and also 15 houses are being erected by Private Enterprise - a total of 71. Details of the houses built and owned by the Council are given in Appendix II.

A summary of the position is as under:-

| <u>Council Houses.</u>            | <u>No.</u> | <u>No.</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| (a) <u>Pre-War.</u>               |            |            |
| 2-bedroom houses                  | 1          |            |
| 3-bedroom houses                  | 27         |            |
| 4-bedroom houses                  | <u>4</u>   | 32         |
| (b) <u>Post-War.</u>              |            |            |
| 2-bedroom flats                   | 32         |            |
| 3-bedroom houses                  | 96         |            |
| 4-bedroom houses                  | <u>8</u>   | 136        |
| (c) <u>Requisitioned Houses.</u>  |            |            |
| Single houses for 1 family        | 8          |            |
| Houses adapted for 2 families     | 5          |            |
| Houses adapted for 3 families     | <u>3</u>   | 16         |
| <u>Private Enterprise Houses.</u> |            | 10         |

The total number of applicants for Council houses on the Register at the end of 1950 was 170.

The 1951 programme is in hand and comprises 18 traditional 3-bedroom houses on West Hill Site and 16 Non-Traditional Cornish Unit flats on Glebe Road and Glebe Avenue.

During the war years and chiefly owing to Industrial Development, the larger houses in the District were occupied by more than one family and the owners did not adapt the houses as self-contained flats and sharing of the cooking and general sanitary provision of these houses has caused a basis for applicants for Council house accommodation.

13. MILK SUPPLY.

The number of Registered Dairies in the District is 7 and the Retailers 6. Supplementary Licences are issued to distributors outside the area in 2 cases.

14. SCHOOL MILK SUPPLIES.

School milk is analysed by the County Analyst from samples taken by the County Council. During the year 19 samples were taken, 16 of which were satisfactory. Milk bottles are also analysed but I feel that much more attention should be given to this matter by the retailers.

15. ICE CREAM.

The retail premises are inspected regularly and no complaints were made. The retailers on the register are 18 and one retailer manufactures. Total 19. Seventeen of these sell pre-packed.

16. PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

These are inspected regularly.

17. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION ANALYSIS.

This has been carried out by the Bristol City Analyst and his Report is given in Appendix III.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

D.W.BRUCE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Appendix I.

Chemical Analysis of Portishead Public Water Supply.

Source.            Portishead District Water Company.   From Bore.  
Date.            2nd April, 1951.

(All results in parts  
per million)

|                                                        |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Number of Sample                                       | C69                              |
| Physical Characters                                    | Clear and Bright                 |
| Reaction                                               | Very slightly<br>alkaline pH 7.1 |
| Total Solids                                           | 1,660.0                          |
| Alkalinity (as Ca Co <sub>3</sub> )                    | 300.0                            |
| Total Hardness                                         | 1,010.0                          |
| a. permanent                                           | 740.0                            |
| b. temporary                                           | 270.0                            |
| Chlorine (in terms of sodium chloride)                 | 235.0                            |
| Nitrogen as Saline and free Ammonia                    | 0.002                            |
| Nitrogen as Albuminoid                "                | 0.032                            |
| Nitrogen as Nitrates                                   | 2.8                              |
| Nitrogen as Nitrites                                   | nil                              |
| Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate<br>(4 hrs. at 80°F.) | nil                              |
| Poisonous Metals                                       |                                  |
| Free Carbon Dioxide                                    | 18.0                             |
| Silica (Si O <sub>2</sub> )                            |                                  |
| Fluorine                                               | 0.09                             |
| Sediment.                                              | none                             |

The sample is an extremely hard water containing very little organic impurity.

(Signed) Edward T. Illing.  
County Public Analyst.



Appendix II.

Statement of Council and Private Enterprise Houses Erected,  
and Requisitioned Houses controlled by the Council.

(a) Pre-War Council Houses.

| DATE.           | SITUATION.    | TYPE.        | NUMBER. | BEDROOMS.                     |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Before<br>1900. | Albert Road.  | Traditional. | 1       | 2                             |
|                 |               | do.          | 1       | 3                             |
|                 |               | do.          | 1       | 4                             |
| 1926            | Milton Villas | do.          | 18      | 3                             |
| 1938            | Glebe Villas  | do.          | 3       | 4                             |
|                 | Glebe Road    | do.          | 8       | 3                             |
|                 | TOTALS        |              | 32      | ( 1 - 2B<br>27 - 3B<br>4 - 4B |

(b) Post-War Council Houses.

|      |                                             |                                                            |     |                               |
|------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| 1946 | Channel View and<br>Channel View Crescent.  | Prefabs.                                                   | 20  | 2                             |
| 1947 | Station Road previously<br>Burlington Road. | Traditional                                                | 18  | 3                             |
|      | Beach Road                                  | do.                                                        | 10  | 3                             |
|      | South Avenue                                | do.                                                        | 12  | 3                             |
| 1948 | NIL                                         | NIL                                                        | NIL | NIL                           |
| 1949 | Nos.21 & 22 Albert Road.                    | Traditional.                                               | 2   | 3                             |
|      | Channel View Crescent.                      | do.                                                        | 12  | 3                             |
|      | Lower Down Road.                            | do.                                                        | 10  | 3                             |
|      | Severn Road.                                | do.                                                        | 2   | 3                             |
| 1950 | Channel View Crescent.                      | do.                                                        | 18  | 3                             |
|      | Channel View Crescent.                      | do.                                                        | 4   | 4                             |
|      | Severn Road.                                | Cornish Units )<br>non-                                    |     |                               |
|      |                                             | traditional. )                                             | 12  | 2                             |
|      | Severn Road.                                | do.                                                        | 12  | 3                             |
|      | Severn Road.                                | do.                                                        | 4   | 4                             |
|      | TOTALS                                      | Prefabs. 20 )<br>Non-Traditional 28 )<br>Traditional. 88 ) | 136 | 32 - 2 B<br>96 - 3B<br>8 - 4B |
| 1951 | In course of construction.                  | Traditional                                                | 6   | 3                             |
|      | " " " "                                     | Non.Do.Flats.                                              | 16  | 2                             |
|      | Being Contracted for                        | Do.                                                        | 12  | 3                             |

(c) Post-War Private Enterprise Houses.

| Year.   | Houses. | No.              | Bed.        | Bungalows. | No.         | Bed.   | Total. | No.              | Bed.        |
|---------|---------|------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------|--------|------------------|-------------|
| 1948    | -       | -                | -           | 2          | {<br>1<br>1 | 3<br>2 | 2      | {<br>1<br>1      | 3<br>2      |
| 1949    | -       | -                | -           | 2          | 2           | 3      | 2      | 2                | 3           |
| 1950    | 4       | {<br>1<br>2<br>1 | 2<br>3<br>4 | 2          | 2           | 3      | 6      | {<br>1<br>4<br>1 | 2<br>3<br>4 |
| TOTALS. | 4       | {<br>1<br>2<br>1 | 2<br>3<br>4 | 6          | 1<br>5      | 2<br>3 | 10     | {<br>2<br>7<br>1 | 2<br>3<br>4 |

(d) Requisitioned Properties.

| <u>Property.</u> |                  |               | <u>Tenant.</u>    |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Adelaide House.  | Woodhill Road.   | Ground Floor  | Hayes, M.         |
| Do.              |                  | B 1st "       | Hayman, H.J.C.    |
| Do.              |                  | F 1st "       | Baker, A.G.       |
| Brent Knoll      | South Road.      |               | Hughes, J.R.      |
| Cavendish House, | Beach Road.      | Ground Floor  | Gregory, S.J.     |
| Do.              |                  | First Floor   | Milsom, J.W.      |
| Chislehurst.     | Gardner Road.    | Ground Floor  | McKechnie, H.     |
| Do.              |                  | First Floor   | Cooper, D.        |
| 1, East Villas.  | South Road       |               | Glassenbury, E.H. |
| Grey Bungalow    | Ashdown Road.    |               | Cooper, F.H.      |
| Hazeldene.       | South Road.      |               | James G.          |
| Kenwyn.          | South Road.      | Ground Floor  | Wring, W.H.       |
| Moorland House.  | Station Road.    |               | Edwards, R.       |
| Nore Park.       | Nore Road.       | Ground Floor  | Berg, M.D.        |
| do.              |                  | First Floor   | Hyman, W.G.       |
| do.              |                  | Second Floor  | Void.             |
| London House.    | High Street.     | First Floor   | Vowles, A.        |
| do.              |                  | Second Floor. | Naden, W.         |
| 1, Rockleigh.    | Beach Road.      | Ground Floor. | Barnett, H.A.W.   |
| do.              |                  | First Floor.  | Lloyd, E.M.       |
|                  |                  | Second Floor. | Plummer, L.T.     |
| 2, Rockleigh.    | Beach Road.      | Ground Floor. | Picton, K.H.      |
| do.              |                  | First Floor.  | Smith, P.W.D.     |
| Taswell Lodge.   | Woodhill Avenue. |               | West, P.C.        |
|                  |                  |               | Harris, W.        |
| Quedgeley,       | Beach Road.      |               | Stanbrook, C.H.   |
| Golf House,      | Nore Road.       | Flat 1.       | Weatherburn, B.H. |
| do.              |                  | Flat 2.       | Turner, L.C.      |



Appendix III.

Report by Bristol City Analyst on Atmospheric Pollution.

SULPHUR DIOXIDE

SO<sub>2</sub> mgm. per 100 sq. cm. per day.

PORTISHEAD

| No. | Site.              | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May. | June. | July. | Aug. |
|-----|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|
| 10  | South Road         | 1.44 | 0.46 | 1.07 | 0.35 | 0.41 | 0.46  | 0.09  | 0.16 |
| 13  | Down Road          | 1.65 | 0.34 | 0.99 | 0.35 | 0.50 | 0.20  | 0.21  | 0.27 |
| 14  | Portishead<br>Dock | 2.90 | 2.01 | 2.41 | 1.09 | 1.09 | 0.84  | 0.32  | 0.63 |
| 15  | Power<br>Station   | 4.68 | 1.05 | 1.74 | 0.47 | 0.73 | 0.41  | 0.21  | 0.19 |

| No. | Site.              | Sept. | Oct. | Nov.                      | Dec. |
|-----|--------------------|-------|------|---------------------------|------|
| 10  | South Road         | 0.27  | 0.22 | 0.47                      | 0.44 |
| 13  | Down Road          | 0.34  | 0.28 | 0.52                      | 0.49 |
| 14  | Portishead<br>Dock | 0.70  | 0.72 | 0.79                      | 0.69 |
| 15  | Power<br>Station   | 0.10  | 0.16 | 0.52<br>per day for<br>63 |      |



YEAR 1950.

Composition of solids collected in deposit gauge at Portishead  
Docks in tons per square mile.

| Month                       | Rainfall<br>in<br>Inches | Total<br>Solid<br>Matter<br>(Suspended<br>and dis-<br>solved) | Insoluble Solid Matter |                                          |                            | Total<br>Dissolved<br>matter. | Sulphate<br>( $\text{SO}_4$ ) | Chlorine<br>(Cl) | Lime<br>(Ca) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
|                             |                          |                                                               | Tar                    | Carbonaceous<br>matter<br>other than tar | Mineral<br>matter<br>(ash) |                               |                               |                  |              |
| January                     | 1.29                     | 38.26                                                         | 0.17                   | 10.46                                    | 16.50                      | 11.13                         | 8.74                          | 1.53             | 0.95         |
| February                    | 4.50                     | 53.22                                                         | 0.36                   | 18.28                                    | 18.18                      | 16.40                         | 9.86                          | 2.22             | 0.57         |
| March                       | 1.75                     | 26.55                                                         | 0.16                   | 5.63                                     | 9.97                       | 10.79                         | 3.15                          | 0.76             | 7.42         |
| April                       | 1.77                     | 36.30                                                         | 0.15                   | 15.17                                    | 14.95                      | 6.02                          | 0.45                          | 1.85             | 0.56         |
| May                         | 1.06                     | 17.42                                                         | 0.25                   | 5.51                                     | 7.20                       | 4.46                          | 4.00                          | 0.69             | 0.51         |
| June                        | 1.93                     | 40.26                                                         | 0.14                   | 18.27                                    | 15.79                      | 6.06                          | 6.29                          | 0.06             | 0.85         |
| July                        | 3.60                     | 95.67                                                         | 11.36                  | 54.95                                    | 23.78                      | 5.58                          | 0.62                          | 0.54             | 0.97         |
| August                      | 6.94                     | 54.60                                                         | -                      | -                                        | 37.80                      | 7.80                          | 1.76                          | 1.16             | 0.81         |
| September                   | 4.82                     | 52.25                                                         | 0.11                   | 15.12                                    | 24.17                      | 12.85                         | 1.94                          | 4.15             | 0.94         |
| October                     | 1.17                     | 71.40                                                         | 0.05                   | 7.27                                     | 56.93                      | 7.15                          | 1.78                          | 1.72             | 0.67         |
| November                    | 5.51                     | 24.44                                                         | 0.12                   | 6.00                                     | 9.57                       | 8.75                          | 2.19                          | 1.94             | 0.60         |
| December                    | 1.38                     | 19.89                                                         | 0.14                   | 5.08                                     | 10.93                      | 3.74                          | 1.19                          | 0.59             | 0.34         |
| Totals for the<br>year 1950 | 35.72                    | 530.26                                                        | 13.01                  | 161.74                                   | 245.77                     | 100.73                        | 41.97                         | 17.21            | 15.19        |
| Mean monthly<br>deposit     | 2.98                     | 44.2                                                          | 1.08                   | 15.61                                    | 20.48                      | 8.39                          | 3.5                           | 1.43             | 1.27         |



YEAR 1950

Composition of solids collected in deposit gauge at  
Meadow Farm, in tons per square mile.

| Month.                      | Rainfall<br>in<br>Inches. | Total<br>Solid<br>Matter<br>(Suspended and<br>dissolved). | Insoluble Solid Matter |                                           |                            | Total<br>dissolved<br>matter. | Sulphate<br>(SO <sub>4</sub> ) | Chlorine<br>(Cl) | Lime<br>(Ca) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
|                             |                           |                                                           | Tar                    | Carbonaceous<br>matter<br>other than tar. | Mineral<br>matter<br>(ash) |                               |                                |                  |              |
| January                     | 2.19                      | 38.24                                                     | 1.54                   | 11.90                                     | 19.94                      | 4.86                          | 0.14                           | 0.09             | 6.30         |
| February                    | 3.50                      | 7.49                                                      | 0.10                   | 0.25                                      | 1.24                       | 5.90                          | 3.53                           | 1.63             | 0.92         |
| March                       | 1.39                      | 3.28                                                      | 0.02                   | 0.58                                      | 1.20                       | 1.47                          | 0.40                           | 0.92             | 0.26         |
| April                       | 1.17                      | 7.80                                                      | 0.05                   | 0.85                                      | 1.20                       | 5.70                          | 0.89                           | 1.34             | 0.26         |
| May                         | 0.94                      | 6.39                                                      | 0.04                   | 0.96                                      | 1.13                       | 4.19                          | 1.47                           | 0.23             | 0.32         |
| June                        | 1.54                      | 7.72                                                      | 0.06                   | 1.30                                      | 1.50                       | 4.86                          | 0.89                           | 0.03             | 1.34         |
| July                        | 3.99                      | 7.83                                                      | 0.04                   | 0.72                                      | 1.51                       | 5.56                          | 0.04                           | 0.94             | 0.03         |
| August                      | 7.63                      | 6.54                                                      | 0.02                   | 0.92                                      | 1.04                       | 4.56                          | 0.67                           | 0.94             | 0.80         |
| September                   | 5.50                      | 11.60                                                     | 0.08                   | 1.61                                      | 0.86                       | 9.05                          | 1.11                           | 3.12             | 1.27         |
| October                     | 1.30                      | 4.55                                                      | 0.05                   | 0.61                                      | 0.71                       | 3.18                          | 0.94                           | 0.79             | 0.35         |
| November                    | 5.44                      | 10.26                                                     | 0.05                   | 1.05                                      | 1.18                       | 7.98                          | 1.27                           | 1.11             | 0.24         |
| December                    | 1.50                      | 5.22                                                      | 0.06                   | 0.54                                      | 0.70                       | 3.92                          | 0.87                           | 0.37             | 0.77         |
| Totals for the<br>Year 1950 | 36.09                     | 116.92                                                    | 2.11                   | 21.29                                     | 32.21                      | 61.23                         | 12.22                          | 11.51            | 6.86         |
| Mean Monthly<br>deposit     | 3.01                      | 9.75                                                      | 0.17                   | 1.77                                      | 2.68                       | 5.10                          | 1.02                           | 0.96             | 0.57         |

